

WHY VOLUNTEER?

There is tremendous satisfaction in knowing that you've made a difference in the life of a senior citizen or someone with a disability. The SHIIP is a program that is based on Nebraskans helping Nebraskans. SHIIP counselors are known state-wide as trusted advocates who provide objective, accurate, and confidential assistance to Medicare beneficiaries.

"Since joining SHIIP, I've seen Medicare grow and change, but one thing remains constant: giving beneficiaries sound information to make good decisions about their health care."

-Betty, SHIIP counselor since 1994

"As a retired attorney, I enjoy 'keeping up appearances' in the community, which is why my favorite part of being a SHIIP volunteer is giving public presentations."

-Frank, SHIIP counselor since 2004

"I personally enjoy being a SHIIP volunteer because of the people I meet, and the satisfaction in knowing I provide objective assistance to Medicare beneficiaries."

-Ann, SHIIP counselor since 2004

SHIIP HIGHLIGHTS

During the April 2005-March 2006 grant year, the Nebraska SHIIP counseled **19,221** Medicare beneficiaries across the state. In addition, an estimated **1,812** outreach events, ranging from public presentations, informational booths, and enrollment events were reported.

SHIIP

Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program

NE Department of Insurance
941 O Street, Suite 400
Lincoln, NE 68508-3639

shiip@doi.state.ne.us
www.doi.ne.gov/shiip

Phone: (800) 234-7119
TTY: (800) 833-7352

This brochure is for informational purposes only and is available to the public. Neither the SHIIP program nor the Nebraska Department of Insurance endorses any specific company, product or plan of insurance.



This publication has been created or produced by the Nebraska Department of Insurance SHIIP with financial assistance through a grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Federal Medicare agency.



Do you enjoy helping others?
Are you interested in Medicare?
Are you looking for a rewarding opportunity?



Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program

1-800-234-7119

WHAT IS SHIIP?

The Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) is part of a national network, funded by a grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, that offers unbiased, free counseling and educational services designed to help senior citizens and those with disabilities make informed decisions on topics related to health insurance. With over 200 volunteers across the state, the Nebraska SHIIP is coordinated within the Nebraska Department of Insurance.

With the program office in Lincoln, Nebraska, SHIIP partners with agencies across the state to provide outreach and counseling services. Regional representatives are located in the following communities: Omaha, Kearney, Scottsbluff, North Platte, Norfolk and Lincoln.

SHIIP does not sell insurance products, does not conduct market research, and is not related to any insurance companies.

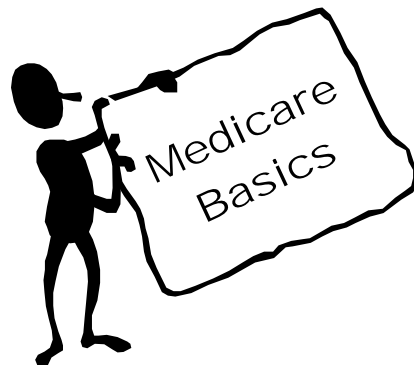
FAQS ON VOLUNTEERING FOR SHIIP

Who can be a SHIIP volunteer?

With the exception of licensed insurance agents, **anyone** can be a SHIIP volunteer. Whether you're retired and looking for ways to stay active, or working with Medicare in your career, volunteering as a SHIIP counselor could be for you!

What is required of a volunteer?

SHIIP requires documented outreach attempts from its volunteers during a grant year. New volunteers complete a two-day initial training, while a one-day update training is held each spring and fall for existing volunteers. Beyond that, SHIIP volunteers choose their level of involvement.



What kind of outreach activities are involved?

SHIIP's two primary services are **consumer education** and **counseling**. Whether you give a presentation at your local senior center or meet with beneficiaries on a regular basis to answer questions, it helps fulfill SHIIP's mission. Volunteers are also never asked to go "outside their comfort zone" to complete their duties.

What if I have questions?

Once you become a volunteer, you'll receive a manual with SHIIP and Medicare information. If you need more help, contact your regional representative or the program office. Another good source of information: other volunteers! The "buddy system" is a great way to conduct outreach and make new friends.

What about printed material?

Volunteers are encouraged to order Medicare-related materials from a list of over 100 publications.